5 November 1985 MJN 8519

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--October 1985

I. GENERAL

A. The Embassy continues to maintain a low public profile in response to the numerous potentially incendiary developments in the region recently, and this month in particular. Several community functions were canceled, and the need for increased general vigilance was reemphasized. So far, fortunately, no untoward incidents have occurred, and the general mood of the mission has remained upbeat.

B. The FBO architectural design team led by FBO architect Anne Eggertson visited Amman from 16 to 22 October to unveil the plans for the new Embassy compound. The team gave a general overview briefing on the 17th, and then met with the various Embassy sections individually to work out specific design problems.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. The bureau opened early on the morning of the 11th in anticipation of harsh Arab world reaction to the diversion of the Egyptian airliner carrying the "Achille Lauro" hijackers by U.S. Navy fighter planes. Editors kept in constant touch with the Embassy throughout the day to keep them informed of monitored reaction, especially from Jordan.
- 2. The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship was the focus of attention in the wake of the latest round of "terrorist" incidents during the month. Talks in Amman between King Husayn and PLO leader Yasir "Arafat ostensibly solved the problems that arose in the relationship, particularly as a result of the cancellation of a scheduled meeting in London between British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.
- 3. Syrian-Jordanian relations continued to take a turn for the better. After several high-level contacts during the month, King Husayn, speaking on "Meet the Press," said that Syria and Jordan "are trying to embark on a new beginning." Jordanian Prime Minister al-Rifa'i will reportedly be visiting Damascus soon.

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B. Lateral Services

- 1. At the request of AG, all program summaries from Amman, Baghdad and Damascus radios currently being wirefiled to the Middle East & South Asia Review writer in London are also being wirefiled to Headquarters.
- 2. In the ongoing effort to ease the load on our primary circuit, the bureau has undertaken a systematic review of our lateral service (drop copy) requirements. Embassy consumers are also being canvassed to update their formal requirements.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

| STAT | 1. Bureau electronic technician vas presented an Exceptional Accomplishment Award, and a \$500 check, on the 22d in recognition of his work in upgrading the bureau's primary communication circuit. |
|------------------------------|--|
| STAT | 2. Monitor specialist received a PSI effective 13 October. |
| STAT STAT STAT STAT | B. Buildings and Grounds 1. Bureau Chief and bureau technician met with the FBO design team on the 21st to discuss their preliminary space allocation/floorplan for FBIS |
| | building. We presented the design team with an alternative floor- plan which would break up our somewhat long and narrow space into three separate modules: administration, technical and operational. The design team was quite amenable to our suggestions and said they will try to work them into the next, "final," design phase. |
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| | Chiet. Jordan Bureau |

ATT: Monthly Production Report

JORDAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

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